

# SUGAR AND PLANTATION NEWS

## LABOR SITUATION CAUSES WORRY TO PLANTATION HEADS

Little Can Be Done Until It Is Determined How Many of Guardsmen Actually Go

### PHYSICAL TESTS MAY CHANGE CONDITIONS

Available Sources Are Few and Time Is Needed To Replace Those Who Are Taken

How serious will be the labor problem for Hawaii is yet to be determined. At the present moment, with the calling out of the guard, the situation is acute and the plantations are badly worried. The bureau of labor of the planters' association is waiting full advice as to the number that will be required to fill the vacancies but is not nearly so pessimistic as are the planters.

It is possible that a considerable number of the plantation workers who were taken away by the calling of the national guard may be later returned. This is the belief that was expressed at the office of the planters' association labor bureau. It was pointed out that many Filipinos are small and that it is possible further that considerable number may not pass their physical examination. Relative to height and weight requirements, this is doubtful, according to army authorities for the army has sent a request to Washington for a waiver of these requirements in Hawaii and it is said that a favorable reply is expected. It is the feeling of the planters' association that holding back the issuance of the papers to some of the guardsmen.

#### Hundreds Taken

Admittedly the situation is serious. It is said by the Garden Island that nearly 600 have answered the call from Kauai alone and a large proportion of these are from the plantation fields. Kaula is one of the islands where the labor bureau expects to have most difficulty in filling vacancies. Thus far each manager is handling the situation as best he may and the labor bureau is being informed of the number of men who have been taken by the call. Little can be done until it is determined how many of these will fail in their physical examination, whether the proportion shall be large or small.

Agency heads are decidedly worried. Each year there is discussion in the Philippines on the subject of emigration and a continued large supply from that source cannot be counted upon as a certainty.

#### Possible Supplies

Porto Rican labor has been promised but owing to transportation matters and other reasons the supply from there will not be large. That is the percentage of Porto Ricans employed would not be large when compared to the number of all nationalities. As yet the matter of securing such labor is not definitely settled, costs entering largely into the question. If costs and wage scale can be satisfactorily adjusted the labor is assured from the 7,500 or more the government has found to be available but it will take a considerable time to bring such labor here.

How far school boys labor will go to solve the difficulties is yet to be seen. Alexander & Baldwin expects to give this plan a trial on some of its plantations and some of the other agencies may also pursue it. The three solutions offered seem to be more Filipino, Porto Ricans or school boy labor or a combination of two or more of them. Of course the Hawaiian labor is always to be considered if it can be secured in sufficient quantities and be relied upon regularly. A splendid opportunity is now furnished for the working out of the new slogan for Hawaiians "Back to the land."

It is not likely that the draft, when it comes, will in any way complicate the situation or at least that it will greatly complicate it. Regular plantation laborers are given a deferred classification so that the heavy withdrawals have come with the calling of the guard. The available substitute supply is that which the draft may affect.

### JAPAN COSTS HIGHER

LOS ANGELES, May 24.—The sugar industry of Japan, like that of the United States, is feeling the effects of increased cost of production, according to S. Ebi, research chemist for the Japan Sugar Company of Tokyo, who is now in California on his way home from a mission of investigation into American methods of producing beet sugar.

Mr. Ebi says that the scarcity of labor and the high prices of food and materials of all kinds have greatly increased both labor and equipment costs in the Japanese industry, while the shipping shortage and the competition from Java have interfered with the marketing of the large Formosan crops of the last two years. The result has been that prices in the Japanese market have been depressed and have not been adjusted to the increase in the production cost.

## SHIPMENTS BETTER THAN INDICATED

Amount In Storage Piles Up But Not So Fast As Feared Another Cargo Is Diverted

Larger shipments of sugar were sent away in May than had been hoped and as a result the sugars awaiting shipment are correspondingly less than had been estimated. Early in May it looked as if the statement by the plantations of sugar awaiting shipment on June 1 would be in excess of 125,000 tons. It was about 80,000 tons short of that estimate, 111,000 tons. About 60,000 tons were gotten away.

It is as yet too early to say what June will bring. Last month it was reported that canned pineapples were to be given half the shipping space, since they are an army and navy ration. There has been no further advice on this point and the amount of sugar on hand the first of next month is dependent to a large extent on this. The increase of raw sugar shipment during May was approximately 30,000 tons. It is conservative to say that the first of next month will probably see 150,000 tons waiting transportation with warehouses correspondingly filled.

Advised received from the mainland of the cargo of the Hyades, arrived in San Francisco June 2, diverted to Eastern refineries. This diversion came sufficiently long before the new freight rates are to become operative so that the announced increase of twenty-five percent in freights does not apply. That increase does not go in to effect until June 25 so that it is possible that other diversions of cargo may mean time be made to give Hawaii the benefit of present rates. If as is believed, the announced increase affects all freights, the extra burden would be an immense burden on Hawaiian shippers with the price in New York only 6.005, reducing the price, all freights deducted, by a cent and a half a pound.

## BRITAIN STUDYING SUGAR INDUSTRIES

LONDON, May 24.—(Associated Press).—In a report on the sugar supply question in Great Britain, Professor George Marneau of the University of London, urges the British government to learn from Germany and the United States which he describes as "the two countries which have handled the sugar question most successfully." Speaking of Germany's success with sugar in the past decade he says:

"There are two causes at the bottom of this mystery. Energy, ability, efficiency, and more than all, persistent research, constituted the first and best cause. But this was supplemented by a stimulus designed to induce capitalists to risk their money in the beetroot industry."

"It was Germany that hit upon the right kind of stimulus. It was a brilliant idea and carried out with great judgment. The sugar duty was levied, not upon the sugar produced, but the roots. This at once stimulated the farmer to produce the richest possible quality of root, and the manufacturer to extract from the root the largest possible quantity of sugar. Great pains were taken to breed an improved variety of sugar beet."

"This research still goes on in Germany and its success has been astounding. At the beginning the sugar beet contained less than 6 percent of sugar. In Germany the average quantity of sugar actually extracted has been brought up to ten percent, 18 percent."

"That this wonderful result was caused by the stimulus, plus of course great efficiency, is proved by the fact that poor France continued getting a 6 percent yield until it adopted the German system, and even then never succeeded in catching up in the race. That is the worst of being too late. In industry it is fatal."

In the United States, says Professor Marneau, the industry has been so carefully fostered that the production has increased many fold. "If America had not erected this great increase in production," he explains, "we should at the present moment be suffering—and so would America—from a real sugar famine."

### UNITED STATES SUPPLY

"In 1915 the consumption of sugar in the United States amounted to the large figure of 4,250,000 tons, every ounce of which with the purely accidental exception of 25,000 tons, came from her own states, territories and protectorates. The striking fact is entirely the result of giving a preference. The United States so far as sugar is concerned, is now entirely independent of the outside world, and is even able to spare a million tons whenever we are short of supplies."

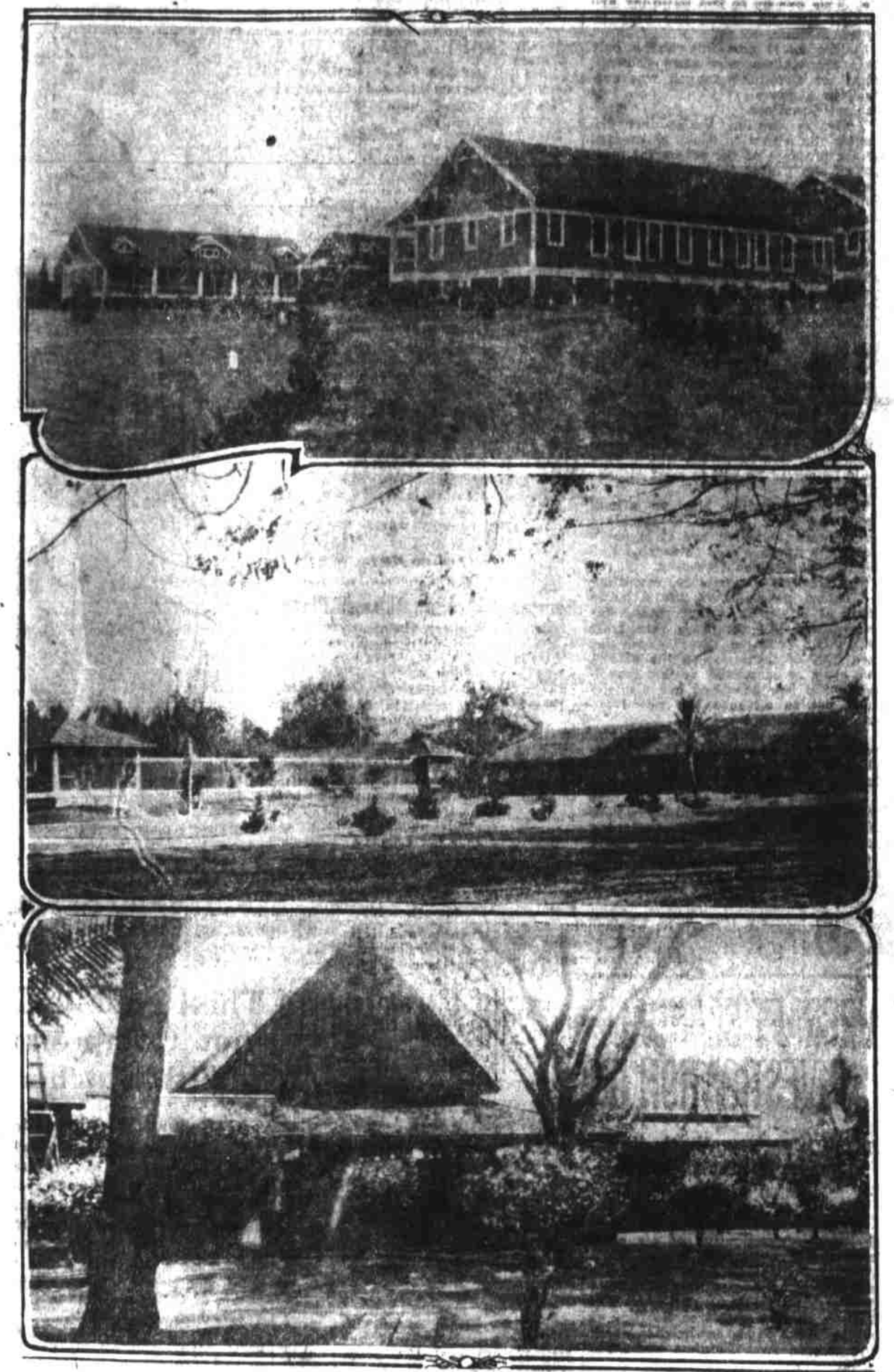
### BELGIAN SUGAR

Belgium expects to produce 130,000 tons of sugar which is rather a large figure considering the lamentable condition in which the nation finds itself.

### COLDS CAUSE HEADACHES

LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE removes the cause. Used the world over to cure a cold in one day. The signature of E. W. GROVE is on each box. Manufactured by E. W. GROVE MEDICINE CO., ST. LOUIS, U. S. A.

PLANTATION companies in Hawaii do much for the comfort and welfare of employees even after their period of usefulness has ended, when they are well, when they are ill and in some instances when they are aged. Here are shown instances of this. Above is the Old Men's Home (private institution) above Paia Plantation. The middle picture shows the clubhouse and grounds for the employees of Puunene Plantation while below is the McBryde Plantation hospital at Eleele where employees receive medical attention and care free.



## LOUISIANA FEELING SHORTAGE OF LABOR

NEW ORLEANS, May 18.—The labor scarcity continues to be the chief source of anxiety in the sugar industry. There is positively no doubt that it is acute and will be more than acute when the harvesting hands are needed. Mr. J. B. Chaffee, secretary of the American Cane Growers' Association, said this week that the labor situation presents one of the most serious problems that has ever confronted the industry in this state. He could not say that he saw any reason for hoping that the situation might improve. There is only one way by which this difficulty will be surmounted and that way is government action to bring back the farmers' laborers to the farms for the harvesting season. Talk of labor shortage is more general this week than at any time and will grow in intensity until something is done to relieve the situation.

Another item of considerable importance to all progressive units in the Louisiana sugar-growing and manufacturing industry is the report that the number of Louisiana factories that have been added so far to the plantation industry is at least 100. This is a very large number of new factories and it is a very large number of new factories and it is a very large number of new factories.

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## SUGAR CONSUMPTION STILL VERY HEAVY

COUNTRY STILL USES 82 POUNDS PER CAPITA IN WAR DAYS

WASHINGTON, May 21.—The United States consumed in the first year of the war, April, 1917, to April, 1918, 4,109,291 tons of sugar, or \$218,582,000 pounds, according to estimates of the Food Administration, announced tonight. The wholesale price of refined sugar in the United States at the present time is \$7.30 per 100 pounds. An increase of one cent per pound in the price of sugar would take from the pockets of the consumers at least \$21,858,200. The regulated wholesale price in Canada is \$8.07 per 100 pounds; in France \$12.38 and in Italy \$26.30.

Canada's consumption of sugar for the year ending March 31 was 352,200 tons. The consumption of France for 1916 was 570,621 tons; the consumption of the United Kingdom was 1,565,999 tons, and the consumption of Italy was 270,933 tons. The total consumption of sugar for the four countries was \$2,765,373 tons for the year ending March 31 was 352,200 tons. The consumption of France for 1916 was 570,621 tons; the consumption of the United Kingdom was 1,565,999 tons, and the consumption of Italy was 270,933 tons.

## LEAVES M'BRYDE TO BE LIHUE MANAGER

Former Head Luna Departs and Friends Congratulate Him

Departure of R. D. Moler from McBryde Plantation, where he has been head luna, to assume the management of Lihue Plantation is told in the last issue of the Garden Island. On the last night of last month he was guest of honor at a smoker tendered in the plantation club rooms. At that time he was presented with a Howard watch by the other employees of the plantation. At the same time friends of Mr. and Mrs. Moler presented them with a remembrance in the shape of a silver vase and tray and Japanese work with a lock and chain of Japanese workmanship.

To fill the vacancy left by the resignation and departure of Mr. Moler Harry J. Eby, formerly time keeper at McBryde, was summoned from Honolulu. He had come here to take up wireless work under the navy department but had failed on physical examination, the Garden Island says. He had been with McBryde for five years and is thoroughly familiar with its affairs.

## NITRATES GO INTO EXPLOSIVES MAKING

Need For War Purposes of Nitrate Cause For Shortage of Fertilizer In Islands

Whether the manufacture of munitions and explosives is more important than the production of sugar is the crux of the question as to whether the plantations of Hawaii will get the fertilizer that is required to keep production here up to the maximum. At the present time the demand for niter for powder and explosives is considered by the government as of far the greatest importance.

Proper fertilization of the soil is essential to the keeping up of sugar production. It is estimated that without the fertilizer the yield would be from thirty to forty percent less than that now obtained, or rather that obtained under normal conditions for this year on two of the islands the conditions were highly varied from the ordinary.

At the present time very little nitrate is coming to Hawaii. The importers are told they can have only to find when the time comes that it is needed in the manufacture of munitions. If this condition shall continue the supply of fertilizer for the sugar industry here will be very limited.

Explanation of transshipment of fertilizer from San Francisco here is that this has been occasioned by the character of vessels bringing it north. Several hundred schooners have carried such cargoes and they lack the fuel storage capacity for cruising from the mainland here. When the nitrates are shipped by large steamers or in sailing vessels they may come here direct, assuming that the nitrates will be obtainable in any event.

Nitrates have gone up in price from around \$40 a ton to about \$100 a ton and at that price are not now obtainable. Other fertilizers are even higher. With the quantities required higher prices are practically prohibitive. There is no attempt "hold up" of the plantations by the fertilizer companies, they are equally unable to get the nitrate and by such inability their business is equally crippled.

## LARGE DOMINICAN FACTORY BUILDING

Two Thousand Ton Factory Will Be Ready To Grind the Next Sugar Crop

(By CLEMENT S. EDWARDS, Consul at Santo Domingo) Reference has occasionally been made in reports from this office concerning the large sugar estate at La Romana in the Santo Domingo consular district and known as "Central Romana". Central Romana is a corporation organized under the laws of Connecticut, and since 1911 has been developing its properties situated in the Commune of La Romana, Seybo Province, Dominican Republic. About 12,000 acres of land have been cleared and planted with sugar cane. The company has a well constructed railroad line of standard gauge which extends from the port of La Romana northward to the cane fields, a distance of thirty kilometers, or about eight miles.

At present at La Romana a modern 2000 ton factory is being constructed, and indications are that the factory will be completed in time to grind the 1918 crop. The factory will be electrically driven and modern in every way. The electric plant will have two 1000 kilowatt turbo generators. Such necessary buildings as storehouse, sugar deposit, 750,000 gallon molasses tank, machine shop, and other buildings have already been constructed. There have also been completed two special brick chimneys, each 200 feet high and one chimney 100 feet high to take care of dead season requirements. A water pumping station is being constructed on the seacoast in order to utilize sea water in the boiling house condensers, the water being returned to the sea by means of a siphon.

### Company Looks After Employees

The company has constructed for its employees several substantial residences of native stone and over 1000 wooden buildings for the occupation of the laborers free of charge. A handsome stone schoolhouse has also been erected on the estate and is, in fact, the first American school in Santo Domingo.

## Government Tells Of Plans For Porto Rican Labor

First Ten Thousand Will Be Used For War Work At Scale Far Beyond Reach of Sugar Plantations of This Territory

While Hawaiian sugar planters are awaiting answers from the government as to their questions relative to costs and expenses of securing plantation labor for Honolulu the government goes ahead with its plans for bringing laborers from Porto Rico to the mainland. The wage scale which will be paid such labor is out of any consideration for the plantation fields of Hawaii, but those mentioned will be employed for war work. If labor is to be brought here it will certainly be on a very different scale of pay than that which is proposed in continental United States for these common laborers, with costs as they are now in sugar production, it would be impossible for most if not all of the plantations here to continue in the business and pay a similar scale.

Relative to Porto Rican labor the U. S. Employment Service Bulletin of May 21, a publication issued weekly by the United States employment service of the department of labor says:

#### First Arrival Soon

As one of its means of augmenting the common labor supply, the department of labor, through the United States employment service, will shortly begin bringing Porto Rican laborers to continental United States. Within a month the first arrivals will be engaged in construction work on government contracts, and the employment service already has arranged for the employment of more than 10,000 islanders on war work at Norfolk, Newport News, and Baltimore and vicinity. Approximately 75,000 Porto Rican laborers already are available for work in the mainland.

The Porto Rican laborers will receive thirty-five cents an hour, with time and a half for overtime work. They will be fed by the government commissary, each man paying twenty-five cents a meal. Housing will be furnished to these men without cost, and a representative of the department of labor now is in the cities in which they will be employed arranging housing accommodations in advance of their arrival.

#### Army Transport Used

The transfer of this labor, which brings American common labor into the continent, has been held up for some months through lack of shipping accommodations. The war department, however, has just agreed to bring over the islanders on the home trips of transports carrying supplies to the mobilization base at San Juan. The possibilities of Porto Rico as a source of common labor supply were investigated last October by the department through P. C. Roberts, a special representative, who went to the island. His estimate of 75,000 available men was subsequently confirmed by Santiago Iglesias, member of the Porto Rico Senate and president of the Free Federation of Labor for Porto Rico, which is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Small Proportion Here In speaking of the number that might be secured for here, Royal B. Mead yesterday said that the number would be "only a drop in the bucket" as compared to the totals of all nationalities who work the Hawaiian cane fields and still that at that time he had not seen the article which is reprinted above.

## WILL USE MAGUEY FOR MAKING SUGAR

MEXICO CITY, May 24.—Authorities have under consideration the possibility of substituting maguey for sugar in the production and sale of pulque in the capital city. One reason for this is the salutary effect upon the classes which consume large quantities of the liquor, and the other is because the concerns handling it have uniformly committed gross frauds against the government and have escaped paying more than a fraction of the just charges levied by law upon importation of the beverage into the city. The amount paid has been insignificant, while the quantity of pulque introduced and sold has been enormous.

The Secretary of Hacienda has under consideration the inauguration of an establishment for the manufacture of sugar from the juice of the maguey plant, which at present is converted into pulque. This would prove beneficial in several directions. It would reduce intoxication, it would aid in alleviating the shortage of sugar in certain portions of the Republic, and it would give employment to a large force of operatives. The entire matter is being carefully studied by the president, with the prospect that in a short time a decree may be promulgated entirely forbidding the sale of pulque in the capital city.

### SAFE, SURE, ALWAYS CURES.

Do not suffer from cramp, colic or pain in the stomach when you are in the City and Diarrhea Remedy goes to the right spot and gives immediate relief. You cannot afford to be without it if you are subject to attacks of this kind. For sale by all druggists, Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., agents for